

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel**  
**Conference Call Meeting**  
**1:00 P.M., March 29, 2013**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**Kingstree Building, Conference Room 204**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210**

**Meeting Called to Order** - Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Massage Therapy/Bodywork Panel office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** There was none.

**Public Notice:**

Ms. Porter announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Massage/Bodywork Panel office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Introduction of Panel Members and Other Persons Attending:**

The Panel members introduced themselves. Carolyn C. Porter, Panel Chair. On the phone were: Denise Van Nostran, Jenny Mitchell, and Charles Stricklin, Sr.

**Staff members present:** Sara McCartha, Advice Counsel; Tracey McCarley, Administrator, Matteah Taylor, Roz Bailey-Glover, Administrative Staff; and Cecelia P. Englert, Court Reporter.

**Others participating in the meeting included:** There were none

**Approval of Excused Absences**

**MOTION:**

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion to excuse the absence of Janet Shaw. Mr. Stricklin seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Panel Agenda**

**MOTION:**

Ms. Van Nostran made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **Chairman's Remarks – Carolyn C. Porter**

Ms. Porter stated that on February 12, 2013, Governor Haley signed Executive Order 2013-02 establishing the Governor's Regulatory Review Task Force and directing all Cabinet agencies to identify 'its current and proposed statutes, rules, regulations, and policies that are a burden on South Carolina's economy.' Each agency must prepare and submit a written report to the Task Force by May 15, 2013. Ms. Porter stated that this is the purpose of today's meeting and turned the session over to Ms. McCartha.

Ms. McCartha explained that the Panel would conduct a cost, benefit analysis and identify areas that impact the economy. Mr. Stricklin had to disconnect from the call.

Ms. McCartha read the Agency Directives, stating that Governor Haley issued an Executive Order on February 12, 2013 which requires each agency to identify its current and proposed statutes, rules, regulations, and policies that are a burden on South Carolina's economy. Each agency shall review all current and proposed statutes, rules, regulations, and policies in order to assess their effects on South Carolina's economy and to determine whether their costs to business and employers outweigh their intended benefits. Each agency should consider factors to include, but not limited to, their necessity, complexity, efficiency, effectiveness, redundancy, public complaints or comments, short- and long-term effects, impact on all affected persons, both intended and unintended, and unintended negative consequences. Each Agency will compile their reports for the Governor's Office by May 15, 2013. A general email box will be placed on LLR's website so that the general public can submit their suggestions.

Ms. McCartha asked Ms. McCarley, what are some of the common complaints from licensees received by the Panel? Ms. McCarley stated there are few complaints received for the Massage Therapy Panel and referred to staff members Ms. Taylor and Ms. Glover. Ms. Glover stated that applicants frequently complain about being unable to obtain the documentation for the high school diploma. Either they do not want to pay for the transcript or the school is closed and they cannot obtain one. Also, there are problems with trade schools that don't verify the high school education of students from college bound programs. This is a problem for applicants who are unable to obtain evidence that they completed high school and it takes them a long time to obtain documents and their license.

Ms. McCartha asked the Panel, what slows down the internal process of serving licensees? Ms. McCarley stated the Panel had a very limited staff, but has hired new staff members to start within the next week. Ms. Glover pointed out that the license verification process should be done electronically to allow staff to send out electronic license verifications to requesting Boards via email, and to receive license verification from other states via email. The current process of sending paper verifications is time consuming, and costly to the Agency. In 2011 the fee for license verifications was dropped from \$20.00 down to \$5.00 but the process of sending out and receiving verifications is still done on paper when it could easily be emailed to the requesting Board. Ms. Porter also pointed out that it's time consuming to check on the schools that have online courses, and for staff to ensure licenses are not approved using an online course.

Ms. McCartha mentioned some of the regulatory changes the Panel already made to combine the disciplinary and advisory panel. This will streamline the process and allow the Panel to hear cases, thereby reducing regulation without reducing the protection of the law. Ms. McCartha turned the session over to the Panel for additional discussion. Ms. Van Nostran suggested that the reduction in the cost of a license renewal was substantially reduced already, and the information should be placed in the report to show the Panel has been proactive in reducing the burden of cost on licensees. Ms. Porter pointed out the Panel meant to only reduce the renewal fee for one year, but to leave the reduced renewal fee in place would further reduce costs. Ms. Porter agreed that combining the disciplinary and advisory panel will also reduce costs. Ms. Porter stated that LLR has done a good job in their efforts to reduce costs already. Ms.

McCartha wanted to know if there was anything else that LLR can do faster for the Panel? Ms. Van Norstran stated that the process for receiving a license has improved dramatically over the past several years and her students are very happy with the fast turnaround time licenses are issued. Ms. Porter pointed out that the South Carolina colleges do check the high school graduations and she is confident that will continue. Ms. Van Norstrom stated the Panel regulations must be consistent in application when it comes to high school graduation documents particularly if trade schools or proprietary schools are not checking the information. The regulations must be uniform when applied. Ms. Mitchell agreed.

Ms. Glover mentioned the students are still being allowed to take the MBLEX examination before completing their massage therapy programs. Applicants come forward and expect to receive a license when they have not completed a program, and have not received a certificate. Ms. Porter stated that staff must make sure the student receives a certificate from their school. Ms. McCartha stated something can be placed on the website that is user friendly to indicate, the specific things a person needs to obtain a license.

Ms. Porter stated that she feels the LLR staff has been doing a wonderful job and the Panel has enough information to provide a report. Ms. McCartha stated that the website can be made more user-friendly and invited the Panel's suggestions. Ms. Porter stated that the website should include changes regarding the new legislation with the 500 hours of classroom training requirement. Ms. Mitchell stated that the renewal process was very easy.

Ms. McCarley stated that the data collection for the audit has posed some complaints from licensees who can't locate their certificates, or don't have the certificates etc. This is an individual licensee responsibility and they must comply with the audit. Ms. Porter agreed and stated it is the licensee's responsibility to maintain their own certificates, and that will not change.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2013. The Panel will determine later whether or not to have a meeting on April 26, 2013. LLR staff will check to see if there are any applications that would require a meeting. Ms. Porter will let the Panel know next week if there's a meeting in April 26, 2013.

Discussion – There was none.

Public Comments – There were none.

Adjournment:

#### **MOTION:**

Ms. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 p.m. Ms. Van Nostran seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**The next meeting of the SC Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel is scheduled for April 26, 2013.**